



Capitol Focus

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- .. Go to www.cahsa.org.
- .. Click on "Contact your Legislator" in the left-side menu.
- .. Click on "My Elected Officials."
- .. Enter your address.
- .. Click on the link for your legislator. Their contact information will be displayed.

Capitol Focus is a weekly activities summary of the Colorado Legislature for CAHSA members, provided by staff of the Colorado Association of Homes and Services for the Aging. Contact Laura Landwirth, executive director, at cahsa@cahsa.org.



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What's new at the Capitol?

What is the Governor up to?

Who are my legislators?

This week our Legislative Task Force reviewed several more bills. As a result of our discussion we have added the following bills to our list of those we support:

HB1122 MEDICAL ORDERS SCOPE OF TREATMENT

Sponsored by Rep. Roberts and Rep. Merrifield & Sen. Williams

The bill provides that a medical order for scope of treatment form (MOST form) that is properly executed and signed by an adult's physician, advanced practice nurse, or, if under the supervision or authority of the physician, physician's assistant, shall have the same force and effect as a physician's order with respect to medical treatment of the adult who is the subject of the MOST form. An adult with decisional capacity or an authorized decision-maker for an adult who lacks decisional capacity may execute a MOST form. The bill requires emergency medical service personnel, a health care provider, or a health care facility to comply with a MOST form that is apparent and immediately available. Emergency medical service personnel, a health care provider, or a health care facility that complies with a MOST form is exempt from civil or criminal liability or regulatory sanction. The bill clarifies the effect of a MOST form on conflicting provisions of another form of advance medical directive.

HB1142 DIRECT CARE PROVIDER CAREER PATH

Sponsored by Rep. Roberts & Sen. Tochtrop

The bill creates a direct care provider career path program (program). This is an expansion of the pilot program that was created by the general assembly in 2002 in southwest Colorado and that was repealed in 2008. The implementation of the program is conditioned on the approval of necessary federal waivers. The state board for community colleges and occupational education is directed to coordinate the efforts of interested stakeholders to achieve the common goal of improved recruitment and retention of direct care paraprofessionals. The bill also specifies that the program shall be conducted statewide. The state board of nursing (board) in the division of registrations within the department of regulatory agencies is directed to consult with interested stakeholders and promulgate rules implementing the program. The board is required to establish and seek input from a direct care advisory committee (advisory committee), made up of interested stakeholders from Colorado, in the development and implementation of the program. The rules specified shall provide for a 3-tier paraprofessional certification for persons performing the tasks of a nurse aide and identifies the 3 tiers. Certain requirements and restrictions are identified for each nurse aide career level that the rules of the board shall include. Funding for certification under the program shall be from federal Medicaid and Medicare programs.

With respect to the state budget I have received inquires re' the proposed 1.5% reduction to the nursing home budget for this fiscal year. The nursing home bill to implement the expected 1.5% reduction for fiscal year 2009-10 has not been introduced. Our understanding from staff at the Department of Health Care Policy & Financing is that the methodology is being refined. It appears that the favored approach will result in a modest increase to the provider fee with the increased amount collected to be used to "backfill" the General Fund so that the 1.5% reduction can be avoided. With respect to the fiscal year 2010-11 it is too soon to know. We will keep you posted as we learn more.

This year CAHSA is once again pleased to be a co-sponsor of Senior Day at the Capitol, which will be held February 24th. A registration form is attached and we encourage you to facilitate your residents'/clients' attendance.